Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

Hunting and Non-Hunting 1990

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

91-05370/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Accident Summary. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm accident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please contact us at 1495 St. James St., or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During the 1990 calendar year there were 22 firearm related accidents as opposed to 27 in 1989. Eleven of these accidents were self-inflicted. There were three fatal accidents, all non-hunting related. Five of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age compared to twelve the previous year.

Ten of the twenty-two accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the twelve remaining accidents, six involved shooters hunting legally during the regular season, three by treaty Indians and three by shooters hunting small game.

Seventeen of the twenty-two reported accidents occurred at a distance of less than ten yards. There were no firearm accidents that occurred due to having a loaded firearm in a vehicle. One accident took place as a result of a loaded Black Powder rifle in a home. Five of the twenty-two accidents involved graduates of a Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety Course was completed by 2,750 students in 1990. Some 111,740 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of this total, only 135 have later become involved in accidents.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1989	1990
Victim out of sight of shooter.	3	4
Victim moved into line of fire.	2	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	1	0
Victim mistaken for game.	2	0
Shooter stumbled and fell.	2	4
Using firearm as club.	0	1
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	1	3
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	2	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	3	1
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	2	3
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	0	0
Unloading.	2	0
Defective firearm	2	2
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home.	2	2
Accidental discharge.	1	0
Ricochet.	1	2
Unknown.	1	0
	27	22

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1990	24.5

SYNOPSIS OF 1990 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1989	1990
Total Number of Accidents	**27**	**22**
Fatal	3	3
Non-fatal	24	19
Hunting Legally During Regular Season	**10**	**6**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	9	6
Treaty Indian Hunting	**4**	**3**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	3	3
Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegally Hunting	**4**	**3**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	3	3
Non-hunting Accidents	**9**	**10**
Fatal in the home	0	2
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	1
Non-fatal in the home	2	2
Non-fatal in a vehicle	2	0
Non-fatal outside the home	5	5
Shooter Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Accidents Involving Shooter 18 years and under	**12**	**5**
All Types of Hunting	**6**	**1**
Fatal	2	0
Non-fatal	4	1
Non-hunting	**6**	**4**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	6	3

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1989	1990
.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	**12**	**12**
Fatal	1	3
Non-fatal	11	9
Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	**5**	**2**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	4	2
Shotgun	**9**	**6**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	8	6
Hand Gun	**1**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
Pellet Gun	**0**	**1**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
Black Powder	**0**	**1**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1989	1990
0 to 10 yards	17	17
10 to 50 yards	8	3
50 to 100 yards	1	0
over 100 yards	1	0
Distance Unknown	0	2

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	1989	1990
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	3	1
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	6 *	3 *
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	1	6 **
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	11	6
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	5 *	6
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	1 *	0
By Day		
Sunday	4 *	5 **
Monday	3	5
Tuesday	0	5
Wednesday	4	0
Thursday	3	2
Friday	5 *	4 *
Saturday	8 *	1
By Month		
January	0	4 *
February	1	0
March	0	0
April	1	1
May	1	2 *
June	4 *	0
July	1	0
August	2	3
September	4	1
October	9 *	7
November	4 *	3
December	0	1 *

* Indicates one fatal

SUMMARY OF 1990 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoy shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE!** Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**
3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE,** take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS,** and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER;** know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT;** avoid all horseplay.
7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN;** never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER;** at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY,** beyond reach of children.
10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DIS-TANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday January 7 1:15 pm	S - 14 V - 13	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The shooter and the victim were playing in a bedroom with a 22 cal. rifle. They thought the rifle was inoperative. The victim held the muzzle to his forehead and told the shooter to pull the trigger, which he did.
Sunday January 7 4:15 pm	S - 27 Self in-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Rabbits	Yes	The victim was walking down a slope. He slipped and fell and the rifle he was carrying discharged. The bullet entered into the stomach area and exited out the lower flank.
Tuesday January 9 11:22 am	S - 68 Self in-flicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Pigeons	No	The victim was preparing to shoot pigeons on his farm. The butt of his shotgun struck the ground and it discharged. He was struck under his left arm which was broken by the impact.
Tuesday January 16 8:00 am	S - 20 V - 20	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Rabbits	No	The shooter spotted a rabbit and checked with the victim to see if it was OK to shoot. The victim stated that it was all clear. The bullet ricocheted off a stone and struck the victim in his right leg.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DIS-TANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday April 6 6:00 pm	S - 40 Self in-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The victim was out target practicing with his repeater rifle. The rifle was cocked and while he was walking over to set up some tin cans he slipped on some ice. The rifle discharged and the bullet struck him in the right foot.
Tuesday May 1 3:00 pm	S - 33 Self in-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Beaver	No	The victim left his rifle on the side of a hill. It slid down and discharged. The bullet struck him in the lower right calf.
Friday May 4 9:30 am	S - 66 Self in-flicted	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The victim went outside of his home with a loaded 22 cal. rifle to scare away a dog. He attempted to use the rifle as a club and it dischargerd. The bullet struck him in the abdomen.
Monday August 6 8:45 pm	S - 16 V - 5	No	Air rifle	10-50 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The victim was playing in a sand pile. The shooter shot at a metal toy which was located 6 inches from the victim. It is not known if the victim was hit directly by the pellet or by a ricochet.
Tuesday August 14 4:00 pm	S - 12 V - 9	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	Two youths took their fathers rifle without his permission. The shooter shot at a stick in the river and the bullet ricocheted off the water striking the victim in the leg.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DIS-TANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday August 19 6:00 pm	S - 14 V - 13	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	Yes	Three youths were out target practicing. One youth called out to the shooter and as he was turning around to respond, his firearm discharged. The third youth was struck in the left arm and back by about 75 pellets from a 22 cal. bird shot shell.
Saturday Sept. 22 1:00 pm	S - 63 V - 57	No	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Partridge	No	The victim was walking ahead of the shooter while hunting partridge. The shooter slipped on a rock and his shotgun discharged. The victim was struck by pellets to the back of both his legs.
Thursday Oct. 4 6:45 pm	S - 50 V - 28	No	Shotgun	U.K.	Grouse	No	The victim was on a road trying to video his partners in the bush who were going to shoot a grouse in a tree. The shooter fired at the grouse and a single pellet struck the victim on the side of his head which required stitches. It is possible that the pellet could have been a ricochet.
Friday Oct. 5 12:30 pm	S - 19 Self In-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The victim was removing or placing his firearm in a cabinet when the rifle discharged. The bullet struck him in the knee.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DIS-TANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday Oct. 8 6:00 pm	S - 15 Self in-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Any small game	No	While out hunting with two other hunters the victim mishandled his rifle and it discharged. He was struck in the forearm by the bullet.
Monday Oct. 8 5:00 pm	S - 28 Self In-flicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	The victim was carrying his rifle with the muzzle pointing down and the safety off. He accidentally pulled the trigger and the bullet went through his foot.
Monday Oct. 8 10:38 am	S - 29 Self In-flicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Ptarmigan	No	The victim received abrasions to his forehead when he fired at some ptarmigan and the barrel exploded. He was struck by parts of the barrel.
Sunday Oct. 21 5:55 pm	S - 35 Self in-flicted	No	Muzzel loader	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	Yes	The victim was moving his firearm and the trigger caught on a table. The bullet struck him just above the elbow and exited just below the shoulder.
Monday Oct. 22 3:30 pm	S - 35 V - 35	No	12 gauge shotgun	U.K.	Grouse	No	The shooter fired at a grouse and the victim who was out of sight of the shooter was struck by several pellets to the thigh.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DIS-TANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday Nov. 2 12:40 pm	S - 37 V - 45	No	Shotgun	10-50 yds	Grouse	Yes	The shooter fired at a squirrel and the victim who was in dense bush was struck by several pellets in the temple and right shoulder.
Tuesday Nov. 13 1:05 pm	S - 53 V - 17	No	.270 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Deer	No	The shooter was comparing the length of his rifle with a member of his hunting party. After placing his partners rifle on the ground, his own rifle slipped. While attempting to grab his rifle it discharged and a third member of the hunting party was struck in the chest by the bullet.
Thursday Nov. 22 8:45 am	S - 28 Self In-flicted	No	30-30 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Deer	Yes	While out hunting deer the victim stumbled and fell. His rifle discharged and the bullet struck him in the foot.
Sunday Dec. 16 3:00 pm	S - 62	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-hunting	No	While removing or placing his firearm in a cabinet the victim discharged his rifle.